

Message

From: May, Chrissy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D05732291E9D464A910877418EFD88A3-LECLERCCH]
Sent: 2/18/2022 12:38:24 PM
To: Cochrane, Kelly [/O=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0a92d9d09ef44dac92a90a1c3dc99525-cochraneke]; Pyper, Todd [/O=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4524cfb8d5694723bc68c40ca78d129f-pyperto]; Scapillati, Silvia [/O=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2f40dae2f02943b0a0ae3b6aebadccf3-scapillasi]; Caron, Trisha (Police) [/O=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3dd35d2ae24040c18bd15c6714775c3a-CaronPMCoOP]; Roberts, Eustace (Police) [/O=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e6641f5e52f349b19f82ed51a86d24ad-RobertEACoO]
CC: Ferguson, Michael [/O=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d4457d08a2584378ae709a19a4001aa2-fergusonmi]; Cowell, Victoria [/O=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b85a2e7b0166444b851641dcbf60475c-cowellvi]; Lavery, Melissa [/O=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b9512c87bf5f4948a630de3666bf3e79-laveryme]
Subject: Message from Ottawa Public Health regarding convoy related air quality concerns

Good morning,

Sharing with you messaging that OPH developed and requested that we share with our colleagues who are working or traveling in the PZ.

Would you mind sharing with your colleagues at the NCRCC?

Thank you kindly,
Chrissy

On behalf of the EOC, we are sharing messaging from Ottawa Public Health. Intended to provide guidance and highlight the risks associated with exposure to diesel exhaust. This information may also help complement the enforcement of the injunction and idling by-law, and reenforces the importance of removing the hazard.

Please see below for a message from OPH regarding air quality concerns related to the ongoing truck demonstration:

Ottawa Public Health has received numerous concerns regarding idling vehicles that are part of the truck occupation of the downtown areas of Ottawa. We have responded with information and advice that is consistent with the City and Ottawa Police Services who are leading this emergency response as follows:

"The City and the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) have been managing multiple dimensions of the protest with the health and safety of city staff, the public, and protesters first and foremost in their planning.

The outdoor air monitor in Ottawa operated by ECCC and the MECP has not indicated any issues of concern this past week. The monitor is located downtown close to Rideau

Street and the Rideau River

<http://www.airqualityontario.com/aqhi/today.php?sites=51001> and measures regional air quality in the City of Ottawa, not point source pollution. This monitor cannot determine the air quality close to a point source of air pollution. For this reason, ambient air quality can be “low risk” while at the same time, very near a point source, the risk level could be higher. For this reason and many others, the public has been asked not to enter the zone of impact downtown. Ottawa Public Health is supportive of all efforts from the City and OPS to address the source of these air quality concerns. I am providing this link to information on the health risks of air pollution from Health Canada for your information: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/air-quality-health-index/health-risks.html>. “

However, as the protest has become entrenched and become an on-going occupation, the potential risk of exposure to diesel exhaust, that has well documented health concerns, has increased for those in impacted areas. As a result, we would like to bring this to your attention and ask that you share this with any agency conducting health and safety risk assessments during this event, including the EOC, Ottawa Police Services Integrated Command and by extension the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa. We are aware that there are several sub-populations amongst the demonstrators (e.g., children, pregnant women, and people with pre-existing cardiovascular and respiratory conditions) who would likely have prolonged exposure to the diesel exhaust pollution and who are particularly vulnerable to poor air quality. At this time, OPH does not think point source monitoring would contribute significantly to a risk assessment because it is already known that spending time in areas impacted by diesel exhaust is something that should be avoided.

Health Canada and other health and environment authorities concur that diesel emissions have direct and immediate effects on human health as well as longer term health impacts. The very small particles in diesel exhaust are small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs, where they contribute to a range of health problems. Diesel exhaust can irritate the eyes, nose, throat and lungs, and it can cause coughs, headaches, lightheadedness and nausea. Studies have found that diesel exhaust particles made people with allergies more susceptible to the materials to which they are allergic, such as dust and pollen. Exposure to diesel exhaust also causes inflammation in the lungs, which may aggravate chronic respiratory symptoms and increase the frequency or intensity of asthma attacks. The elderly and people with emphysema, asthma, and chronic heart and lung disease are especially sensitive to fine-particle pollution. Numerous studies have linked elevated particle levels in the air to increased hospital admissions, emergency room visits, asthma attacks and premature deaths among those suffering from respiratory problems. Diesel exhaust has been identified as a carcinogen. Because children's lungs and respiratory systems are still developing, they are also more susceptible than healthy adults to fine particles. Exposure to fine particles is associated with increased frequency of childhood illnesses and can also reduce lung function in children. For these reasons, exposure to diesel emissions should be limited in both the short and long term.

Should you have any questions, please contact,

Mike

Michael Ferguson, BSc, MSc

Program Manager, Environmental Health / Gestionnaire de Programme, Santé environnementale

Ottawa Public Health | Santé publique Ottawa

100 Constellation Dr., 8E / 100, prom. Constellation, 8E, Ottawa, ON K2G 6J8

613.580.6744 ext. 22005 | 613.580.9648 | michael.ferguson@ottawa.ca

